



**AMERICAN
SCHOOL FOR
THE
DEAF**

ALL ways able.

Jeffrey S. Bravin,
Executive Director

139 North Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107
www.asd-1817.org

Appropriations Committee Hearing on Education

February 17, 2022

Testimony by Juan Pagan, Current Student (HB5037)

American School for the Deaf

Good afternoon. My name is Juan Pagan and I am a current student from Meriden, CT enrolled in the 5th Year Bridge Program at the American School for the Deaf. I am here today to request your continued support of ASD.

In June 2021, I finished my coursework required for graduation. Even though I had earned enough credits to graduate, I learned about ASD's new Bridge Program that allows eligible high school seniors to stay for an additional year to gain vocational skills or prepare for college.

After encouragement from a teacher, I made the decision to enroll in the Bridge Program to learn additional vocational skills. I joined ASD's Educational Technology department, where I am completing an internship in the area of Information Technology. I have learned so much this year, and I plan to use this experience to go on to an IT training program.

This year, I have presented about the Bridge Program to my classmates who are seniors at ASD. A friend of mine, who was also initially planning to graduate, has now decided to also enroll in the Bridge Program next year. This program is preparing me for life after ASD. Because of ASD, I am confident and ready for the world. My future is bright.

Your continued support of ASD will allow other students, like myself, to become successful citizens. Thank you.